

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-08 NEA-06 RSC-01 ISO-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 24882

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OCON, UNESCO, CB

SUBJECT: KHMER PROBLEM BEFORE UNESCO

REF: (A) PARIS 24560 (B) PARIS 24692

1. KHMER UNESCO DELEGATION HEAD, PAN SOTHI, TOLD EMBOFF OCTOBER 18 THAT UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT HAGUIWARA TOLD HIM THAT FROM SOUNDINGS OF ALGERIANS, SOVIETS AND OTHERS, HE HAD CONCLUDED THAT THE GRUNK WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS. (IN OPEN SPEECH ALGERIAN REPRESENTATIVE SAID HE WOULD ACCEPT POSTPONEMENT PROVIDED GKR REPRESENTATIVES DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE CONGRESS; GKR REPS WONDER WHETHER PHYSICAL PRESENCE WILL CONSTITUTE PARTICIPATION IN MINDS OF ALGERIANS.) IF GRUNK DID TRY TO SUBMIT CREDENTIALS, HAGUIWARA SAID HE WOULD BE AWARE OF IT AND WOULD REQUEST GKR TO GET ITS CREDENTIALS SUBMITTED FIRST. ALGERIANS AND OTHER GKR OPPONENTS ARE APPARENTLY CONVINCED THAT PROVOKING CONFRONTATION BY HAVING GRUNK ATTEMPT TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS COULD NOT SERVE THEIR INTERESTS OR THOSE OF GRUNK.

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2. PAN SOTHI THOUGHT SOVIETS HAD DEFINITELY OPPOSED ALGERIANS' ORIGINAL DESIRE TO BREAK THROUGH HAGUIWARA'S PROCEDURAL TACTICS, BUT HE WAS UNAWARE OF ARGUMENTS WHICH SOVIETS COULD HAVE USED TO TAME THE ALGERIANS WHO OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERED THE INCONCLUSIVE OUTCOME TO BE A SETBACK NOT ONLY FOR GRUNK BUT FOR ALGERIA AND PRC. PAN SOTHI THOUGHT THAT GKR AVOIDANCE OF DEFEAT AT UNESCO COULD HELP GKR PROSPECTS IN NEW YORK.

3. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT USSR AND EE COUNTRIES HAVE NOT BEEN ANXIOUS FOR A GRUNK SUCCESS, WHICH COULD BE SEEN AS A VICTORY FOR PRC AND ITS PROTEGE SIHANOUK. ON OTHER HAND, THESE COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT IF THEY HAD TO STAND UP TO BE COUNTED, THEY WOULD HAVE TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF GRUNK. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOVIETS ARGUED WITH THE ALGERIANS THAT IF KHMER CREDENTIALS WERE VOTED ON, THERE MIGHT BE JUST ENOUGH DELEGATIONS VOTING FOR POSTPONEMENT OR ABSTAINING ON PROCEDURAL GROUNDS (AWAITING UNGA DECISION) TO ADD TO THOSE DELEGATIONS VOTING FOR PRG OR ABSTAINING ON SUB-STATIVE GROUNDS TO PRODUCE A DEFEAT FOR GRUNK IN UNESCO VOTE. (OUR OWN ESTIMATES WERE THAT GRUNK SUPPORTERS MIGHT HAVE RAISED ENOUGH VOTES TO UNSEAT GKR). SOVIETS MAY ALSO HAVE TOLD ALGERIANS THAT A CLEAR DEFEAT IN UNESCO VOTE WOULD DO MORE DAMAGE TO GRUNK THAN ACQUIESCENCE IN A PROCEDURAL STALEMATE. HOWEVER, WE DOUBT THAT SOVIET INTENTIONS ARE TO PROMOTE GRUNK BY ENHANCING PROSPECTS OF VICTORY IN UNGA; PERHAPS SOVIET AND EE COOLNESS TOWARD GRUNK WILL BE FAVORABLE ELEMENT IN NEW YORK AS WELL.
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